

08/01/2007

OBEY SUPPORTS CHAMP ACT TO HELP PROVIDE HEALTHCARE COVERAGE FOR NATION'S UNINSURED CHILDREN

WASHINGTON, D.C. â€“ Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) said that he supported the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act (CHAMP Act) which passed the House today because it reauthorizes and improves the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which provides health coverage for uninsured children.

â€œIt is a moral abomination that any child goes without health insurance in America today,â€ said Obey, the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. â€œThe CHAMP Act renews the existing Children's Health Insurance Program for the six million kids already covered and allows it to provide health coverage for five million more. Something that's long overdue.â€

The CHAMP Act reauthorizes SCHIP for another 6 years, and provides a \$50 billion increase to allow the program to nearly double the number of children who receive coverage. SCHIP allows Wisconsin to fund BadgerCare, the State's landmark health insurance program for working families, which currently covers over 30,000 Wisconsin kids. Wisconsin's share of the SCHIP increase is \$29.7 million, securing coverage for those already in the program, providing dental care for kids, and giving the state the opportunity to cover additional kids who qualify but are currently uninsured.

That is why, Obey noted, the legislation is supported by over 100 organizations nationwide, including the AARP, the American Medical Association, the National Rural Health Association, and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.

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